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ISSUED WEEKLY

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A NEW YEAR PLEDGE

As life is measured by what we put into the world, I shall make this year more valuable than any previous one by crowding more service into it.

not now be "as a man from whose hands his life-work was falling undone," you seem to have forgotten if you ever knew that it was Mr. Bryan's "monetary vagaries" more than anything else that compelled the late and then President McKinley to appoint and send abroad a commission in the interests of international bimetallicism...

And, sir, while there are some things yet to be accomplished in the great work of righteousness and justice which are the chief bulwarks of free government, the very conditions and results with us here at this hour, born of this great conflict, proclaim to the world that Bryan, one of the most truly great leaders of whom history will have to record, has in the very highest and grandest sense—morally—triumphed.

In speaking of the services of Cobden and Bright and the sacrificing without hesitation of all their popularity by opposing the Crimean war in order to satisfy what seemed to them the dictates of honor and of conscience, on one occasion, Mr. Gladstone said: "I know not where to find a really parallel instance of moral greatness in modern times."

We have a parallel instance now in the person of Mr. Bryan, who with the superb moral courage that has marked every stage of his career has without hesitation sacrificed his popularity by opposing an attempt to introduce the corrupting influence of the liquor interests into the politics of his home state to satisfy what,

to him, seemed the dictates of honor and of conscience.

And yet, in the face of such service to his country, nay more, to all human kind as well, you go even to the length of talking about a "tragedy" in a career such as his.

Why, sir, rather for one in your enviable condition and position to exhibit such a lack of appreciation of a career and public services as Mr. Bryan's—his contribution to the cause of religion; to colleges; to missions; as witness his matchless addresses such as "The Prince of Peace," "Thou Shalt Not Steal," "The Price of a Soul," and last, but not least, his masterly address before the world's missionary conference at Edinburgh, Scotland—constitutes all there is of a "tragedy" in the life of Mr. Bryan, all else—and it is a matter of world-wide record now—is triumph of the highest order.

No, a man of Mr. Bryan's physical, moral and intellectual endowments and public services—like a Gladstone, a Cobden and a Bright—supported by millions of grateful and devoted followers, will "pass" only when the "finger of God touches him"—as all flesh will and must—and only then.

C. H. BULLIS, One of the "Million Army." Lancaster, N. Y., December 5, 1910.

FRED WARREN

E. H. Bushnell, Fort Collins, Colorado.—I hear some talk around here about Fred Warren, the editor of the Appeal to Reason, and as I have taken The Commoner for several years, and voted for Mr. Bryan every time he has run for president, I thought I would ask some questions in regard to Warren. Is he guilty of a crime sufficient to send him to prison, and what is this socialism, anyway. Please answer in Commoner. (It has occurred to a great many people that the prosecution of Fred Warren made "a mountain out of a mole hill." Perhaps technically Warren violated the law. His offense, however, did not seem to call for imprisonment or anything more than a nominal fine.)

SAMPLES

Just to ascertain the effect of the tariff on men's clothing, a gentleman in New York recently wrote for a box of samples of cloths with respective prices, to a well known firm of British export tailors, viz., Messrs. C. E. Brierley & Co., of Huddersfield. The samples came in due course. This firm offers to supply suits to customers in all parts of the world at from \$6.45 to \$13.40, according to sample of cloth selected, exclusive, of course, of duty and freight charges. Suits of similar cloth would cost in New York from \$13 to \$26—full double the price charged in England.

Accompanying the samples is a list of duties payable on an imported suit of clothes in various countries. The United States tops the lot with ninety per cent approximately, Belgium charges thirteen per cent, Bermuda ten per cent, British Guiana twelve and one-half per cent, Canada thirty per cent, Cape Colony twelve per cent, Jamaica seventeen per cent, New Foundland forty-five per cent, Transvaal twelve per cent. The principal European countries charge duty by weight of goods. To import a suit of clothes into France costs twenty cents, to Germany thirty-six cents, to Italy twenty-two cents, to Spain \$1.44. Besides these diminutive figures the American rate of duty towers like a skyscraper over a railroad shed.—News item from tariff reform committee, Reform Club, 26 Beaver street, New York City.)

- W. W. Cheadle, South Bend, Wash.— My answer to Senator Owen's query is an open secret, common to these four propositions, following: One—Simple slavery binds the mind of the man. Two—Feudal slavery bound the land of the man. Three—African slavery bound the body of the man. Four—Industrial slavery binds the industry of the man. The answer is self-evident, or at least enough to cast his first ballot for Fremont and his last for Bryan. That's pretty good company—whether my response is good or not. Our only hope for industrial freedom is in the ballot.

Smile that Won't Come Off

"For the Work that is Progressive"

Hagerstown, Maryland, January 19.—I clipped from the Press, one of, if not leading republican organ of Pennsylvania, the enclosed, notwithstanding you may have seen it ere this reaches you. I thought it so good, however that I could not refrain from sending it. Surely this must make still broader that smile of W. J. Bryan's. Yours for the good work that is progressing. FRANK T. ELLIOTT.

GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE

The tendency towards pure democracy, the direct participation by the people in the work of government, which has been growing and spreading in the last half dozen years, is very marked this winter. The Oregon plan by which the direct power of the people is felt in the initiative, referendum, recall and the legislation in the people's every day interests which have grown out of it is made the subject of encomium by Governor Wilson, of New Jersey, and recommended to the favorable consideration of the legislature of that state. Governor Foss, of Massachusetts seeks to popularize these innovations of government in conservative Massachusetts. Governor Johnson of California, declared strongly for these changes towards pure democracy in his first deliverance to the legislature of that state.

Ex-Governor Folk, of Missouri, in public addresses keeps preaching the initiative, referendum and recall to the audiences that assemble to hear him. Senator Bourne of Oregon, is an earnest and eloquent propagandist of the Oregon plan among those as yet unfamiliar with its virtues. There is no counteracting influence. No one publicly and forcibly challenges the merits of this most popular form of government. It seems to suit the people, who have adopted it and it inspires some students of governmental problems with enthusiastic admiration. It is steadily gaining ground against the only form of active opposition which says "Wait. Let this experiment be worked out to a demonstration in those states and communities which have adopted it. Let us not hastily follow their example, but rather be guided by their experience."

The one feature of these changes which is sweeping aside opposition and is sure to be adopted in a very short time is the election of United States senators by the people instead of by the state legislatures. The senate is now dominated by those who favor this mode of election, either because of their own conviction or because of public opinion in their states. The rules and habit of the senate may prevent its adoption at the short session, but it cannot check much longer the strong tide in its favor.—Philadelphia Press.

THE RAW MATERIAL DODGE

Honey Grove, Texas.—Editor Commoner and Many Readers: Have you noticed the subtle deceptive dodge of a prominent senator to fool the people as to his intention and purpose? He says: "O, my dear people, the reason I voted to retain high protective tariff on the raw material is because it is necessary as a protection against high protective tariff on the manufactured article." When in deed and truth he and his followers worked faithfully with the high protective tariff advocate to increase the tariff upward instead of downward on manufactured goods. Why don't you deceivers help to do away with high protective tariff on the manufactured articles? Then there would be no necessity for high protective tariff on the raw product. A dark, deep laid grafting scheme resorted to by infamous betrayers of the confidence of the laboring people to try to justify themselves in working for robbery corporation trusts, gambling exchanges, etc., instead of for the toiling millions. Such betrayers should go down in history as did Benedict Arnold. Please send me a few sample copies of The Commoner for free distribution, and greatly oblige an appreciative reader of your worthy paper, engaged in heroic battle for the toiling millions against high protective tariff corporation trusts, gambling exchanges. We trust a monument will be erected to your memory now and that will endure forever. Yours for reformation, I. TAYLOR ALLEN.